

104TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 97

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to peace and stability in  
the South China Sea.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30 (legislative day, MARCH 27), 1995

Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ROBB) submitted the following resolution;  
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to peace  
and stability in the South China Sea.

Whereas the South China Sea is a strategically important waterway through which transits approximately 25 percent of the World's ocean freight, including almost 70 percent of Japan's oil supply;

Whereas the South China Sea serves as a crucial sea lane for naval vessels of the United States and other countries, especially in times of emergency;

Whereas the People's Republic of China, the Republic of the Philippines, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of China on Taiwan, the State of Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia have overlapping and mutually exclusive claims to portions of the South China Sea, especially in the Spratly Island group;

Whereas these competing claims have led to armed conflicts between several of the claimants;

Whereas these conflicts threaten the peace and stability of all of East Asia; and

Whereas the 1992 Manila Declaration of the Association of South East Asian Nations, also recognized by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of China, calls on the claimants to exercise restraint and seek a peaceful negotiated solution to the conflicts: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2           (1) urges the executive branch to reiterate to  
3       the claimants in the South China Sea that the United  
4       States does not take a position on any individual  
5       claim;

6           (2) calls upon all of the claimants to refrain  
7       from using military force to assert or expand territorial  
8       claims in the South China Sea;

9           (3) urges the executive branch to declare the  
10       active support of the United States for the 1992  
11       Manila Declaration of the Association of South East  
12       Asian Nations, and calls upon all the claimants to  
13       observe faithfully its provisions; and

14          (4) calls upon the claimants to scrupulously observe  
15       the January, 1995 status quo ante pending

- 1 any negotiations or resolution of the conflicts be-
- 2 tween such claimants over such claims.

